

Concordia University
Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
Minutes of meeting 2006-11
held
Friday, March 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in room EV002.309

Present:	N. Esmail (Chair)	M. Paraschivoiu
	A. Athienitis	M. Pugh
	R. Bhat	T. Radhakrishnan
	M. Debbabi	A. Ramamurthy
	R. Dssouli	E. Sacca (for M. Mulrennan)
	D. Dysart-Gale	R. Sedaghati
	J.M. Edwards	N. Shiri
	J. Hakim (Secretary)	L. Stratakos
	C. Lam	L-Z. Mrabti
	L. Lopes	C. Trueman
	W.E. Lynch	R. Zmeureanu
	B. Mackenzie	
	J. Opatrny	
	C. Paradisis	

Observers:	E. Katz	L. Zack
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Regrets:	S.T. Alkass	A.A. Bulgak
	T. Bui	V. Devabhaktuni
	T. Fancott	A. Kassam
	R. Paknys	L. Quesnel
	M.R. Soleymani	

1. Adoption of Agenda

The order of items in the agenda was revised on the request of Dr. R. Bhat, and Dr. W.E. Lynch requested time to present an update from his office.

Motion:
2006-11-01 The revised agenda be adopted.
(*R. Bhat & C. Trueman*)

Vote: Carried Unanimously

2. **Adoption of the minutes of Meeting 2006-09**

Motion:

2006-11-02 **That the Minutes of Meeting 2006-10 (February 16, 2007) be adopted as submitted. (M. Pugh & R. Dssouli)**

Vote: Carried Unanimously

3. **Chairs Remarks**

The Chair congratulated Dr. Sabah Alkass who has been selected by the CSCE (Canadian Society of Civil Engineering) to be the recipient of the 2007 *Walter Shanly Award*. This award is given for the "outstanding contributions to the development of practice of construction engineering in Canada". This award will be presented at the CSCE's general meeting that will take place in June 8, 2007 in Yellowknife.

The Chair also reported that Dr. Paul Fazio was recently named a member of the Order of Canada and offered congratulations on behalf of the Faculty.

The Chair also reported on a study, originally conducted by École Polytechnique and recently sponsored by the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science, which compares research parameters of 15 engineering schools in Canada.

The schools are Concordia, Dalhousie, Polytechnique, McGill, McMaster, Queen's, Laval, Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Alberta, UBC, Calgary, Toronto, Waterloo and Western Ontario. The École Polytechnique version of the study "Analyse Comparative de la Recherche dans 15 Écoles et Facultés d'ingénierie au Canada de 1999 à 2005" is available on www.polymtl.ca/recherche/doc/Sommaire-WEB-13avril06_000.pdf

The Chair reiterated that the Faculty aspires to develop into one of the leading Faculties of Engineering in Canada and beyond. The report sponsored by NCDEAS has named the 15 Faculties Canada's G15. Furthermore, the Chair noted that this is a particularly precious achievement for ENCS; one that the Faculty should strive to maintain.

The Chair remarked that while the report lists ENCS as the Faculty with the highest number of graduate students and the fourth largest in the number of full time professors, the Faculty is short on a number of universally acknowledged indicators of excellence. The most important are total and average per professor External Funding, total and average per professor number of publications and total and average number of citations of publications.

The study covered a five year period 1999 to 2004. The Chair remarked that the Faculty has the distinct difference from all other Canadian Faculties of being the Faculty that experienced a dramatic change in the size in graduate students (+150%) and in professors (+60%) over the same period 1999-2004.

The Chair conceded that it can argue that measurements during a period of such dramatic change do not reflect the current state. In fact, among Faculty Members, 77 professors (out of 150) have been hired from the year 2000 onwards, which makes ENCS perhaps the youngest on average professoriate of engineering in Canada. There could be a few arguments that would support the notion that the Faculty's performance in the report does not reflect the current state of affairs and our potential.

The Chair reiterated that the Faculty aspires for excellence and the challenge is to perform through the universally acknowledged indicators of Excellence, External Funding, Publications, and Citations.

On that note, the Chair asserted that it is absolutely important that all Faculty Members adopt the universally acknowledged indicators of research excellence in accordance with their universally accepted definitions. Such indicators should guide Department Personnel Committees and Faculty Personnel and Tenure Committee in their evaluations of research excellence.

The Chair clarified that external funding is funding through grants and contracts.

The Chair also clarified that only those publications that are listed on the Web of Science or Science Index may be included in the measurement of research productivity. Perhaps the only exception is the alternative universally accepted classification of excellence of Computer Science refereed conferences. The Chair stressed that it is critical for the future of the Faculty that efforts be directed towards publications venues that are listed in the Web of Science and to make it an essential part of DPC and FPTC evaluations of research. Furthermore, members should always consider and ask for the number of citations in cases of evaluations.

Academic communities are governed by their collectively accepted academic culture. Their strength emanates and rests on the level of excellence of this academic culture. The Chair concluded that in order to achieve Excellence, ENCS needs to weave into the fabric of its academic culture true and universally acknowledged measurements of excellence.

4.

Graduate Curriculum Proposals for the 2007-2008 Academic Year

Dr. R. Bhat presented document ECFC 2006-11-03 which outlines graduate curriculum proposals for the 2007-2008 Academic Year. The proposal deals with a change in topic area for Mech 6071 Switched and Hybrid Control Systems.

Motion:

2006-11-03

That the proposal in document ECFC 2006-11-03 be approved by Council.

(R. Bhat & M. Pugh)

Vote: Carried Unanimously

5.

Graduate Curriculum Proposals for the 2007-2008 Academic Year

Dr. R. Bhat presented document ECFC 2006-11-01 which outlines graduate curriculum proposals for the 2007-2008 Academic Year. These changes involve adding a scheduled laboratory to SOEN 6481 and SOEN 6611, and converting the slot course COMP 791 Statistical Language Processing to the permanent course COMP 6781 Statistical Natural Language Processing.

Motion:

2006-11-04

That the proposal in document ECFC 2006-11-01 be approved by Council.

(R. Bhat & C. Lam)

Vote: Carried Unanimously

6.

Graduate Curriculum Proposals for the 2007-2008 Academic Year

Dr. R. Bhat presented document ECFC 2006-11-02 which outlines graduate curriculum proposals for the 2007-2008 Academic Year. These changes reflect a change in course description for INSE 6510 Video Game Technology and Development (4 credits) and INSE 6530 3D Graphics and Computer Animation for Game Design (4 credits), namely, the replacement of a project with a two hour laboratory per week for each course. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this proposal.

Motion:

2006-11-05

That the proposal in document ECFC 2006-11-01 be tabled.

(W.E. Lynch & R. Bhat)

Vote: Carried Unanimously

7.

Other Business

Dr. W.E. Lynch updated council on various initiatives from his office. The calculator committee will be meeting soon and now has representatives from each department and most faculties within the University have also expressed interest in this initiative.

Dr. Lynch also noted that Drs. Vatistas and Sebak are coordinating the engineering math courses and the Council should be grateful for the work they are performing on this important initiative.

Finally, Dr. Lynch reminded Council members of the "Spirit of Inquiry Conference" being organized by Vice Provost D. Morin's office. Dr. Lynch reminded council that the call for proposals deadline is March 23.